

LITERARY MISCELLANY.

For the National Era.

LEONARD WRAY.

A ROMANCE OF MODERN HISTORY.
By the author of "The Chronicles of the Battle,"
"The Embassy," "The Yule Log," "Philip of
Lorraine," &c.

CHAPTER I.

An Unexpected Meeting.

On one clear moonlight night, in the month of November, 1848, a solitary man might have been seen standing on the Pont de la Vierge, resting on his arms, which were mechanically crossed upon the iron balustrade of the bridge, his mind being apparently absorbed in the contemplation of the striking scene that met his view. He had paid his soul for the privilege, and seemed determined to enjoy it to the utmost, in happy ignorance of his having formed the subject of a brief conference between the chief of the night patrol and his subordinate, which was held in the presence of the toll-keeper, and the toll-keeper's assistant.

"How long did you say, citizen?" inquired the former, taking out a small note-book, and preparing to write in it with a pencil.

"It struck eleven as he paid the toll," responded the bridge-keeper; "it is now half past."

"Keep your eyes upon him, citizen sentinel," resumed he of the note-book, raising his voice, as he made a minute of the circumstances, and addressing himself to the sentry on guard.

The soldier stood to his arms a moment, in indication of obedience, and resumed his inopportune duty of pacing to and fro at the foot of the bridge. The chief of the patrol exchanged salutes with the toll-keeper, and passed on.

"He isn't a suicide," muttered the toll-keeper to himself, as the chimneys of the *Hôtel de Ville*, ringing distinctly in the deep silence that reigned, told of another quarter of an hour, added to the great account current between Time and Eternity; "he can't be one of that sort, or he wouldn't stand looking so long at the water. He must be a stranger."

The man was right. Leonard Wray had not been yet many hours in Paris; but, though fatigued by a somewhat tedious journey, had been tempted by the fineness of the night to take a stroll, haphazard, for the purpose of surveying the aspect of the city by moonlight.

Starting from the hotel at which he had put up, in the immediate vicinity of the *Palais Royal*,—then called the *Palais National*, in deference to the triumphant popular will—he struck across the *Place du Carrousel*, and, passing through one of its small arched gateways, found himself on the *Quai du Louvre*. Here he hesitated a moment, but, presently turning to the left, proceeded up the quay till he reached the bridge above mentioned, through the turnstile of which he was permitted to pass on payment of a small copper coin. Perhaps he had purposed crossing the river, for he was pursuing a straight course towards the other side, when he stopped suddenly short, and, after gazing a few seconds at the view before him, assumed the moiling posture he still maintained when the toll-keeper of the bridge came to the conclusion that the last passenger was certainly a stranger.

The spot to which chance—if such a thing there—had led him, is indeed one whence is obtained one of the most striking views of the French metropolis. A painter would select it, in preference to any other, if his object were to present, in a small compass and in a picturesque group, the chief edifices of ancient Paris. In broad day, the charm of the view disappears; but even an hour before sunrise, standing boldly out from the sea of golden glory that there floods the background, or at any time when it is illuminated by the silver rays of a full moon, as it was now, the scene is one that cannot fail to strike the stranger, as possessing features of interest peculiar to itself, and suggestive of associations of the most varied character, extending over a period of many centuries.

Immediately to his left stood the *Louvre*, calling up shades of dark deeds done in the time of old Catherine de Medici, and stretching its long frontage of chaste architecture along the quay to which it gave its name, then gracefully making way for the quaint and venerable church of *St. Germain l'Auxerrois*, from the turret of which the gaunt spirit of religious fanaticism had erstwhile rung the *tocsin* that announced the commencement of the bloody tragedy of the *St. Bartholomew's Eve*. Far away, on the left, the river, standing all proud and stately in its solitude, the majestic tower of *St. Jacques la Boucherie* next arrested his wandering eye, seeming to look down with an air of protective patronage upon the sacred edifice dedicated to *St. Germain des Prés*, and throwing into prominent foreground a section of the recently erected river frontage of the *Hôtel de Ville*, distinguished by its greater whiteness from the line of tall, irregularly-built towers, lighter here and there, to their very roof tops, and which, extending as far as the eye could reach, indicated the direction and length of the quays.

Looking to his right, he traced the perfect outline of the *Institut de France*, one-half obscured in deep shadow, the other standing out sharply defined in the gray light that streamed down upon it from above; and a little lower down the facade of the *Musée*, plunged again in darkness, but here and there illuminated by blue light dancing to and fro, and which, with the dull clanking sounds that fell regularly and continuously on his ear, told of active life within, and betrayed the occupation of the inmates.

But by far the most remarkable feature in this striking scene was the *Île de la Cité*, the *Loterie* of the Emperor Julian, from the very centre of which arose the sombre mass of the ancient cathedral of *Notre Dame*, its two lofty towers standing up grim and gaunt out of the gloom in which they were immersed, like two heavy giants of stone, keeping watch and ward by night over their own antique portion of the city, and over the flowing memories of the past. Divided by this island, came rolling on the *Seine*, in two silver streams, until these became again united at the *Pont Neuf*, where, at the point of junction, and forming a prominent though somewhat distinctive feature in the immediate foreground, stood boldly out in relief, like a black spectre, the equestrian statue of old King *Henri Quatrième* the *Bernini*. There came a long line of singularly-fashioned barges, moored on each side of the river, the use of which would have remained unknown to him who was passing, save for the presence, in one of them, of a poor, belated creature, whose military conduct, flickering unsteadily, scarcely answered its purpose of enabling its owner to achieve successfully the abolition of the hope of domestic apparel she was lustily belaboring with a small paddle, and alternately scrubbing.

But although this novel scene had not failed strongly to impress Leonard's mind with the consciousness that he was enjoying in a strange land, his thoughts were fixed upon a far-off country, and upon the difference which a few miles of ocean make in the manners and customs of men. His meaning, however, was abruptly terminated, at length, by the sound of a distant air, sung in stanzas by a pair of soldiers, the proprietor of which very soon he perceived, in the person of a thin, solitary individual, evidently of his centre of gravity, who appeared to be seeking, alternately, at each side of the bridge. Having reached the spot where Leonard was standing, the stranger stopped short, and, standing himself by grasping the balustrade, recommenced

and completed, in a tolerably steady key, the first verse of "Yankee Doodle," ending the performance by an elaborate crouch, and a profound obeisance to Leonard.

"I beg your pardon, Monsieur," said the new comer, "but vous vous tenez où vous êtes, in the name of all creation, I am, and excuse the language, for I don't parlez-vous, no how?" Leonard started a little when he heard the tones of the stranger's voice, and, looking intently at him, said, smiling, and imitating the drawing tone in which he spoke—

"I guess you're some five thousand miles from Washington, in a place they call Paris; and that's about as much as I can tell you."

"Well, now, if you aren't about the most civilized critter I've seen in this country," responded the stranger, "then, looking more attentively at Leonard, he exclaimed, 'No!—taint possible! Leonard Wray! Well!—and, apparently overcome by excess of joy at meeting so unexpectedly with an old friend, he renewed his song of "Yankee Doodle," and commenced capering around Leonard with a vigor that our hero had some difficulty in restraining.

"I'm glad to see you, Zach," said he, shaking him by the hand; "but you are the last person I should have expected to meet in this strange city. How long have you been here, and where are you lodging?"

"I've been here about eight-and-forty hours," responded the other, "and lodge somewhere near the *Palais Royal*; but why use I know the name of the hotel. I've been out strolling, on the quays, and best trying to find my way back home, almost ever since I left it."

"I lodge in the same neighborhood," replied Leonard,—"hotel de Lille and Albion."—"Cook-a-doodle do!" shouted Zach,—"that's the very place I went. I've roosted there these last two nights, and I reckon they don't want to get rid of me yet. When they do, perhaps they won't find it quite so easy as catching an old coon asleep!"

"What, at your old tricks again, then; eh, Zach?" observed Leonard, gently releasing himself from the grasp of his friend. "I should have thought Judge Lynch and the California boys would have taught you better manners and straighter principles."

"Pity you wasn't born in times when philosophers made fortunes, Leonard," retorted his mercurial companion; "but it ain't o' no use your sermonizing me; no, sir. As to my manners, well, perhaps I had best not crack them up too high. I look to 'em as they come to me, and I can't say I ever found 'em any hindrance. As to my principles, I do own they depend a smattering deal on circumstances; and that's about as much as the best of us can say, come to figure things up right close. Yes, sir! But, lend us your arm, Leonard, and let's be making short tracks for the hotel; for my appetite is just about as keen as eating through one of them 'ave long-legged chickens I seen the fellow in the white cap ask-awering when I left home."

[REMAINDER OF CHAP. I. TO-MORROW.]

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The steamer *Arabia* arrived at Halifax yesterday, bringing Liverpool dates to the 15th of the 4th. The British arrival, except on the 14th. The *Arabia* was in the Clyde, disabled. Nothing had been heard of the City of Glasgow.

The *Arabia* passed the Africa on the 16th, and on the evening of the 19th left in with the brig *Hannab*, of White Haven, in a sinking condition, having on board the crew of the brig *Helen*, of Liverpool, foundered at sea. Took off both crews.

Cotton and breadstuffs had slightly advanced. The steamer *Arabia*, to April 12th, state that three American ships were somewhere in the Baltic, with stores for the Russians, and an English steamer was despatched for them.

The whole allied fleet was in the Black Sea, near Varna. All the marines of the fleet were to be landed to protect that place.

Admiral Dundee had signalled his cruisers to take from the British vessels belonging to Russia. His fleet was in communication with the Turkish land force.

On the 30th of March, an important rally was made on Kalafat, and a sanguinary encounter of four hours occurred. The Russians were routed, with great loss, and pursued a considerable distance.

The British war steamer *Cyclops* arrived at Malta on the 7th, bringing important news. The Turks in the Dardanelles, after the Russians crossed the Danube, purposely left a free passage for them to Hirsowa, and then attacked them in the rear.

After a hard fight, one half the Russians were cut to pieces, and the other half recrossed the Danube. The Turks had evacuated Chernavoda, which was razed by the Russians. It was also stated, no date, that 30,000 Russians had crossed at Galatz, without opposition.

The accounts are very conflicting. The Turkish vessels on the Danube, filled with grain, had been fired into by the Russians, and one sunk.

St. Petersburg was illuminated, and a *Te Deum* sung, on the receipt of the news of the passage of the Danube.

The Greek insurrection makes no progress. An Austrian note of remonstrance has been forwarded to Athens.

The account, and was confirmed by the Russian account of the Easter holidays. Parliament was not in session.

General Sir Richard Aniskurg and Admiral Lowe are both dead.

The employers at Stockport had notified the operatives that the advanced wages given last year must be withdrawn. A strike was anticipated.

It is stated that Mr. Soule had received instructions to demand reparation for the Black Warrior, and the United States Government made the useful apology, with pecuniary recompense, besides blaming the Captain General for the course he had permitted his officers to pursue in the matter.

The Duke of Cambridge, Lord Raglan, and staff, arrived at Paris on the 11th inst. Napoleon had a grand review of 25,000 of his troops on the occasion. The Duke carried the autograph letter of Victoria to Napoleon.

A farewell dinner was given to Mr. Sanford, at Paris, on the 10th inst.

Forfe, April 9.—English and French vessels of war on the coast of Thessaly have orders to search all vessels suspected of having munitions of war on board, and to seize them when found guilty.

Austria appears to act more in union with the Western Powers. Prussia loans more to Russia, though temporizing with both parties. The protocol, guaranteeing the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, was signed at Vienna by the four Powers, including Prussia, but signed separately with Prussia introduced into her treaty of mutual alliance, with Austria a condition and limitation, which would render the treaty a dead letter, and which Austria consequently refused to accept.

However, and all the minor German States excepting Bavaria, side with the Western Powers, and will support Austria in forcing Prussia to declare herself, should the subject come before the Federal diet.

The *Independence* Belgae announces positively that a treaty of permanent alliance, offensive and defensive, had just been signed by France and England, independent of treaties for the present war.

India and China.—We have Shanghai dates to the 17th of February, and Hong Kong to the 25th.

A Russian war steamer had arrived at Shanghai, from Nankasaki, on the 10th, and returned on the 11th, bringing intelligence that the Emperor had consented to negotiate, and had sent his ministers to treat with the Russian Admiral. They had also treated the Russian Admiral to a banquet. The Japanese Ambassadors announce that Japan will open her ports, but will require time.

The American squadron had not arrived at Nankasaki when the Russian steamer left. No political news from Canton. Trade was going on as usual.

A discovery of gold in Ceylon is reported near Colombo. Insurrectionary fighting was going on in the Persian territories.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1854.

SPEECH OF MR. BENTON.

The speech of Mr. Benton yesterday was listened to with profound attention, by the members of the House, and by a dense mass of spectators in the galleries. Powerful as was the speech throughout, we were particularly pleased with the opening portion, in which, with unrivalled tact and pungency, he administered a rebuke to the President for his interference with the deliberations of Congress.

He did not charge such interference upon him—he did not, he would not, know the opinion of that functionary, unless disclosed in writing, in a constitutional way. And then he proceeded to characterize Executive interference with questions before Congress, in a way which, we could wish, might prove salutary to all Presidents.

The truth is, Presidential interference in the business of legislation has come to be so common that it awakens no surprise. A President, unable by his personal influence or patronage to command enough votes in Congress to carry through a great, but doubtful measure, is apt to be despaired for his imbecility. It is notorious that General Pierce has not scrupled to use his influence in favor of the Nebraska Bill.

Members have been personally approached on the subject, and been importuned to support it. "It is not bribery alone attempted upon a member," says Mr. Benton, "which constitutes a breach of the privileges of the House. It is any attempt to operate upon a member's vote by any consideration of hope or fear, favor or affection, prospect of reward or dread of punishment."

THE UNION.

Slaveholding politicians, aware of the exaggerated estimate placed on the value of the Union by the People of the free States, neglect no opportunity to magnify its importance to them. From their speeches and writings, one might infer that those States are mere dependencies of the South; that without the Union they would sink into barbarism; and that the South barely tolerates association with them, more from regard to the events of the Past, than the necessities of the Present. They are constantly training Southern People to magnify their own importance; to imagine that they have more courage, more honor, more chivalry, than any other People; that in Slavery, they enjoy an institution which gives them rightful pre-eminence and a prosperity unsurpassed; that cotton, in the growth of which they fear no competition, is the chief material of Northern commerce, and an absolute necessity in modern civilization, so that the civilized world is really tributary to them. The Union is not the god of their idolatry; they allude to it as a burden, as an instrument of oppression, as an evil to be tolerated, not a good to be cherished. Hence the prevalent characteristics of the Slaveholding caste are, self-sufficiency, a kind of provincial pride, intense sectionalism, arrogance, and an undisguised belief that in suffering the Union to stand they are conferring a great favor upon the North, for which no equivalent can be rendered.

On the other hand, the politicians of the free States have been preaching Union, ever since the Farewell Address of General Washington. They worship it more than they do Truth or Justice. With them, the Union is an end, not a means, and the People are warned against the deadly crime of even calculating its value. No sentiment is so holy, no right so sacred, no interest so vital, that it should be permitted to weigh against the maintenance of the Union!

It is easy to see what an advantage the Slave Power finds in this difference in the training of the two sections. One is forbearing, slow to take offense, easily appeased, perpetually anxious to save the Union; the other, aggressive, impatient, implacable, disposed on the slightest provocation to dissolve the Union.

It is time that we should divest ourselves of prejudice, and look at this matter in the light of reason alone. The Union we regard not as a necessity, or an end, but as subserving certain interests of equal importance to both sections; not that these interests might not be secured without it, but that they have been quite effectually promoted by it. For example, it has served to prevent the reproduction on our continent of the unfortunate political system of Europe, with its alien, antagonistic kingdoms and empires, its intriguing diplomacy, its great military armaments, and its exhausting wars. It has served to promote uniformity in language, customs, and manners; to prevent harassing and injurious restrictions on social and commercial intercourse; to exclude foreign intrigue, and to secure for us a rank among the first nations of the earth. So far, then, as it has subverted the great interests of unity of language, unity of Government, Free Trade, Peace, Power, and Exemption from Foreign Influence, we value the Union, and would rejoice to see it maintained. But in all these respects the South is just as much interested as the North, the West, as the East. To magnify its benefits to one section, and disparage them in relation to another, is a trick of politicians, for the advancement of sectional ends.

In regard to the pecuniary value of the Union, as we lately showed, the free States are not dependent upon it. It is not the Union which has given them a temperate climate, a soil abounding in agricultural capabilities and mineral wealth, lakes and rivers inviting to internal commerce, a sea coast with ample harbors necessarily favoring a vast foreign commerce, water power and steam power, and the intelligence, tact, and enterprise, requisite to turn all these natural advantages to the best account. It is not the Union that has set

their looms at work, built up their cities, filled every sea and ocean with their shipping, given them the control of the commerce of the South, and made them competitors with Great Britain in the market of the world; and this day the Union might be dissolved, without seriously or permanently affecting their capabilities and resources. Their march would still be onward; for they embrace within themselves all the elements of wealth and power—agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial.

We repeat, from the Union they have derived no peculiar advantages. The benefits it has secured—Free Trade and Peace among thirty-one independent States, unity of language and laws and customs, freedom, independence, and extensive empire—have been shared in common by all sections. There is no debt the North owes the Union, which the South does not owe, too; and there is no reason why the North should be called upon to make greater concessions than the South, for the sake of maintaining it. On the contrary, the weight of obligation is on the Southern States, as a few considerations will readily show.

Suppose the Union dissolved, the North and West would be in possession of all the elements of national power—population, diversified industry, and commerce. With sixteen millions of freemen, receiving annually vast accessions of hardy foreign races, they could supply their own wants, and would continue a formidable power, expanding and growing stronger every day. Lying generally in the great basin of the Lakes and the river St. Lawrence, the natural attraction between them and the Canadas would have full play, and identity of commercial interests and of race, with sympathetic ideas and institutions, would in due time lead to a political confederation, to which, under such circumstances, Great Britain would feel little disinclination. But these Provinces, it must be remembered, comprise a larger area than that occupied by the slave States.

Meanwhile, the new empire would bear away from the Atlantic to the Pacific, possessing an extent of Territory far greater than belongs to the present Union, and pervaded, as the present Union is not, by homogeneous social and political institutions, without any great exceptional interest, seeking to oppress and enslave other interests. Of the greatness, the impregnable strength, the unrivalled prosperity, of such an Empire, no intelligent mind can entertain a doubt.

How would it be with the Southern States? They would begin their independent career with a population of eight millions, embracing two alien races, one held in base subjection by brute force, necessarily hostile to the superior race, and furnishing the material for a fearful convulsion in the social fabric. A Union of six millions of freemen and three millions of slaves, could not expect to compete with a Union of sixteen millions of freemen. A Union, without common schools, without science, without the mechanic arts, without manufactures, without commerce, could not expect to rival in resources a Union in which all these abounded. A Union, devoting its chief labor and capital to the growth of a few staples, and dependent largely for the supply of its wants upon the products of other nations, could not be as self-sufficient and sufficient to itself, as a Union able to produce within itself all its necessary supplies. A Union without sailors or shipping, could not command, on the high seas or abroad, the respect which would be accorded to a Union whose flag was floating on every sea and in every part of the world. A Union, with three millions of slaves, rapidly increasing, and six millions of freemen, losing by emigration more than what would be gained by immigration, would be seriously endangered by a war in defence of its rights, and utterly incapacitated for schemes of aggrandizement and conquest. Such a Union, notorious as being the corner stone of an institution repugnant to modern civilization, held by civilized nations to be barbarous, and against which the Public Opinion of mankind is steadily concentrating, would find itself exposed to annoyances, indignities, and perils, from which the existing Union is exempted by its formidable power.

We but glance at these considerations, not to wound Southern people, not because we suppose they are not in all respects as well off as any other people could be under such a social system as weighs upon their energies, but to show them that the question of the value of the Union and the consequences of dissolution has two sides to it; that all the real benefits derived from it by the North, equally inure to the South; that it confers no peculiar benefits upon the North, while it does confer such benefits upon the South; and that its dissolution, while it could not permanently and seriously affect the pecuniary interests of the free States, would, in all probability, produce the most disastrous effects upon the peculiar interests of the slave States.

Let slaveholders beware of trying too far the strength of the Union, and compelling the People of the free States to calculate its value. Many of them are now calculating it, and they find nothing in the process so alarming as they have been taught to believe.

A HANDSOME PAMPHLET.—Messrs. Jewett & Co., of Boston, have issued in exquisite style the speech delivered in the Senate by Mr. Sumner, in opposition to the Nebraska-Kansas Bill. "The Landmark of Freedom." The paper, printing, binding, and gilding, are delicate and beautiful. We are pleased to see that admirable production thus appreciated. It will live in the records of which our whole republic will at a future day be proud.

This pamphlet is for sale at the *Era* office, at Messrs. Gray & Ballantyne's book store, &c. Price 37½ cents.

SHOCKING TRAGEDY.—At Lynchburg, Va., on Saturday morning, April 22d, John W. Lambeth, belonging to a highly respectable family, while laboring under aberration of mind, murdered his wife by cutting her throat, and then killed himself. The weapon used was a pocket-knife.

Rev. Mr. Milburn, the blind Chaplain of Congress, will lecture at Carson's Saloon to-night, on Young America. This lecture has been pronounced at New York, and was then commended as a beautiful and able effort.

leo, unless it can be said that they steal themselves. Let this point be settled. If fully convinced that to run away is to steal one's self, perhaps the slaves of Norfolk county will stay at home hereafter.

RUMORS ABOUT CUBA.

The newspapers within a few days have contained various statements and rumors about Cuba, which seem to have more than ordinary significance.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, a Whig paper, says:

"We learn that much anxiety is felt at Washington in relation to the reply of the Spanish authorities to the demand for reparation in the case of the *Black Warrior*. Our Government has determined to pursue a very rigid course, and to this end the instructions that have been sent to Mr. Soule are of the most unequivocal character."

Whereupon, "the organ" remarks:

"The Administration is exercising a vigilant watchfulness over American interests everywhere, and is resolute in its purpose not to yield in any instance to the slightest depredations upon those interests by any foreign State, however strong or however feeble. A nuisance of a most disturbing character to our repose has long existed at our very gates—a defiance of all the friendly remonstrances which we have made upon the subject. It is now in the course of frightful extension. The time has come for treaty negotiations for its removal. Redress or action is now the alternative demanded by a nation's voice. To that voice the nation's Executive will nobly respond. More than two weeks ago, the Cabinet at Madrid was informed in categorical terms, if we mistake not, of our requisitions for the families to which we had been submitted, and for the injuries which we had sustained. A few days will, perhaps, put us in possession of its reply."

We have yet to learn that the Administration, with all its wonderful courage, has been "categorical" towards any nation but Spain.

What does "the organ" mean by "a nuisance of a most disturbing character to our repose," and "its frightful extension," and of the time for "treaty negotiations" having gone by?

Perhaps an explanation may be found in the following. Commodore Newton, who refused to salute the Spanish flag in Havana, on account of the language used in the Government papers in relation to the President of the United States, arrived in Washington last Friday, and was most cordially received by the President and the Secretary of the Navy. Telegraphic despatches in the Northern papers report as follows:

"The Commodore relates that Pezuela, the Captain General at Havana, has in his possession a royal decree emancipating all the slaves in Cuba, but he refrains from publishing it in consequence of the present state of European affairs. The Cuban Creoles are ripe for a revolution."

The despatches in the *New York Herald* confirm this report, and add some particulars. The Commodore, they say, "communicated to the Government the important fact which had come to his knowledge at Havana, from a source he deemed perfectly reliable, that the Captain General has in his possession a royal decree, authorizing him, at any moment he may deem proper, to emancipate all the slaves in the island."

The *Herald's* correspondent says:

"The joyful feeling among the Cubans at the thought that there may be a difficulty between the United States and Spain, which will lead to the annihilation of Spanish power in the island, is represented as being universal. The feeling is attempted to be kept down by the Spaniards, who fill every office in Cuba; but it is, nevertheless, apparent to the most careless observer."

Mr. Dean's resolutions to abrogate our neutrality laws excited the liveliest hope.

Commodore Newton has received orders to hold himself in readiness till the Government receives the reply from Spain relative to the *Black Warrior* affair.

The "nuisance" alluded to by "the organ" is probably the project for the emancipation of the slaves in Cuba. But, if Spain promptly apologizes for the seizure of the *Black Warrior*, and make ample reparation, what will the Administration do then? What pretext will it hunt up for abating this nuisance? If the following item of news, just brought by the *Arabia*, be correct, the Slavery propagandists must make up their minds to tolerate the nuisance, at least for a time:

"Madrid.—It is stated that Mr. Soule had received instructions to demand reparation in the case of the *Black Warrior*. On the 6th, the Spanish Government made a proper apology and pecuniary recompense."

Meanwhile, some of the *New York papers*—among them the *Tribune* and *Times*—publish letters from correspondents in Havana, coolly inviting the United States to take possession of Cuba, without any more ado. A correspondent of the *Tribune*, writing from Havana, April 14, says:

"The fate of Cuba has been sealed in heaven long ago, and, agreeable or not to some parties, it must become United States property very soon. A great prophet is made about the matter, by no means favorable to the discernment of our great men, who, with all the Christian piety in the world, would have settled the question ere now, had they had much wisdom, by placing the island in a position not to be the lurking-place of pirates and smugglers for Europe on your shores. To hear the people here speak of Cuba makes one's head ache. From what I see of the English, the best and most philanthropic people in the world, by their own account, they would have had the cider first and the talk afterwards. How did the English get Gibraltar, Malta, the greater part of India, &c.?"

This is no hint to you to imitate English morality, but rather one to our old mammas to examine the mote in her own eye before she speaks of alliances with France and Spain to regulate the affairs of the Western world. The less you say about this little garden, Cuba, the better. Take it, and afterwards cultivate it well, and do what will be best with it. If you leave it to its present task-masters, what between fear, stupidity, and brutality, they will make a horrid place of it."

It is to be regretted that the Press cannot find something better to publish, than such scoundrelism as this—cool invitations to piracy and plunder.

As to the policy of Emancipation which is alleged to be resolved on by the Spanish Government, we earnestly hope that the report may prove true. At all events, any interference on the part of our Government would be sheer impertinence—odious and inexorable.

When the People of Kentucky a few years since agitated the question of Emancipation, who dreamed of appealing to the Federal Government to intermeddle in the matter? But

such intermeddling would have been more depreciable than its interference against emancipation in the colony of a foreign State. The Administration might as well advise the Slavery Propagandists that there is no hope for them in Cuba. Spain does not intend to allow the shadow of a pretext for quarrelling with her, and it will never do to attempt a piratical seizure of the island, to prevent the establishment of free labor there. That set would array against us not only Spain, but her allies, to say nothing of the fierce contempt of the whole world besides—and it would doubtless provoke the instant emancipation of all the slaves in the island! Would it not be a brilliant stroke of policy for a nation with more than three millions of slaves in its own borders, to suffer itself to be caught in a war for the re-enslavement of half a million of people to Slavery, almost within sight of its shores?

CONGRESS.

In the Senate to-day, the People again made themselves heard in opposition to Slave Territories and national bad faith. The memorial to make a Ruse pavement throughout Pennsylvania avenue, was adversely reported upon. A bill to purchase Gilbert Stuart's portraits of the first five Presidents was passed. The Indian appropriation bill was then taken up and further considered.

In the House, a post office appropriation bill was reported; a bill to regulate the pay of the Judges of the United States District Courts was ordered to be printed and referred back to the Judiciary Committee; a bill to indemnify California for expenses in the Indian wars was referred to the Committee of the Whole. Bennett's land bill was further considered; and Messrs. Harris, of Mississippi, and Hiestor, of Pennsylvania, addressed the Committee of the Whole, in opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

THE TREATY WITH MEXICO.

Having rejected the Treaty of the President, General Gadsden, Mr. Ward, and others, with Santa Anna, the Senate yesterday agreed upon the project of a new treaty, which it is probable the President will send to the city of Mexico, or wherever Santa Anna can be found, by the hands of some approved agent. This project, it is reported, was approved in the Senate, by a vote of 36 to 12. It is stated that it gives Santa Anna ten millions of dollars; that he is to give us thirteen million acres of land; that he is to abrogate us from the obligations of the 11th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, past, present, and to come, we presume; that it recognizes the Sloc party as having a right of way; that it takes no notice of the Garay party, who are represented as having expended so much money; that it secures to our Government a port on the Gulf of California; and that it stipulates for the formation of a commercial treaty between the two "neighboring and friendly republics!"

SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.

This Association met at the Smithsonian Institution at 11 A. M., to-day, and was duly organized.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—We regret to learn, from a publication of the Transportation Master of this line of Railroad, that on and after the first of May next, passenger fare between Washington and Baltimore will be \$1.50, and the round-trip ticket, good for the day only on which it is issued, \$2.25. The price of these tickets has been, for a year past, \$1.25 and \$1.50. New Jersey and Maryland appear to view each other in fleeing the travelling public. This branch has been the only profitable portion of the Baltimore and Ohio road, and yet the fare upon it must be raised from more than 3½¢ to nearly 4 cents a mile, thirty-nine miles being the road distance. Have the people of Washington no right to be heard in this matter? Is the air-line to New York never to be made?

FROM VENEZUELA.—EMANCIPATION.—The barque *Venezuela* arrived at Philadelphia on Monday, from Porto Cabello, with dates of the 9th inst. On the 24th ult., the Venezuelan Congress abolished slavery throughout the Republic, and the bill became a law the same day by the signature of the President, who had previously freed all his own slaves. Indemnity to the planters was specified, but funds for that purpose had not been set apart. The number of slaves in the Republic is about 10,000, the greater part of them being old. Their average value will not exceed \$20